

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
April 16, 2003**

The regular meeting of the Washington State Transportation Commission was called to order at 9:00 a.m., on April 16, 2003, in Room 1D2 of the Transportation Building in Olympia, Washington.

Commissioners present were: Aubrey Davis, Chair, Ed Barnes, Elmira Forner, George Kargianis, A. Michèle Maher, Chris Marr and Connie Niva.

John Doyle, Manager, Freight Office, introduced Harry Caldwell, Chief, Freight Mobility, Federal Highway Administration. Mr. Caldwell commented regarding TEA 3 reauthorization and freight issues at the national level. He stated that Washington and Oregon have been the two states that have lead the nation in addressing freight and international trade concern. He explained the repercussions of 9/11, and the need for security systems, encouraging the Commission to look at the critical system infrastructure. Mr. Caldwell suggested that the Commission and Department be prepared for reauthorization.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*It was moved by Commissioner Kargianis, and seconded by Commissioner Marr, to approve the minutes of the March 19 & 20, 2003 Commission meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.*

**2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE**

Don Griffith, Legislative Liaison, provided an update of 2003 transportation related legislative activities. The presentation covered the status of important policy and budget related issues being considered this legislative session.

Bill Ford, Budget Chief, provided a brief summary of budget legislation regarding the proposed 2003-05 biennial operating budget and the 2003 supplemental budget for the House and Senate. Mr. Ford responded to budget questions from Commissioners.

**AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF TRANSPORTATION BONDS**

Amy Arnis, Manager, Financial Planning, presented Resolution No. 648 to the Commission for signing. The Resolution authorizes the State Finance Committee to sell bonds for transportation improvements when requested by the Washington State Transportation Commission.

*It was moved by Commissioner Niva, and seconded by Commissioner Maher to approve Resolution No.648, Authorizing the State Finance Committee to sell Transportation Bonds when requested by the Commission. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **I-5 PAVEMENT AND CAPACITY PROJECT**

David Dye, Administrator, Urban Corridors, provided an update on I-5 paving project needs and the potential for a corridor level Environmental Impact Study (EIS) regarding improving the mobility of I-5 through Seattle. Due to the age of the pavement, and volume of traffic that it carries, the pavement on this segment of I-5 is deteriorating rapidly and is near the end of its design life. The Department is preparing a very preliminary draft scope of work for a corridor EIS on increasing the capacity of I-5 by improving lane capacity. Maureen Sullivan, Project Director, Urban Corridors Office, provided an informational briefing outlining the problems and solutions of I-5 pavement deterioration and gridlock. The I-5 Pavement Reconstruction, Operation and Capacity Improvement Project will replace pavement and retrofit stormwater systems by using a pavement priority phase. Commissioners commented regarding highway preservation, lane continuity, capacity issues and funding.

## **ALASKAN WAY VIADUCT & SEAWALL PROJECT UPDATE**

David Dye, Administrator, Urban Corridors, provided an update regarding recent activities and progress of the Alaskan Way Viaduct & Seawall Project. Maureen Sullivan, Director, Urban Projects, stated that the focus has been on the most seismically vulnerable portion along the central waterfront and specifically addresses the existing viaduct and seawall. Every effort has been made to thoroughly analyze the most technically feasible, publicly acceptable and cost effective solutions that should be considered in the Environment Impact Statement. The viaduct and seawall are currently receiving safety inspections and maintenance activities are being performed. Each of the alternatives, rebuild, aerial, and surface options are being refined as new information on soil conditions, traffic modeling information and engineering feasibility has become available. The Department has developed a risk management team to update the emergency response plan should the viaduct fail or be determined unusable. She discussed the alternatives of accommodating vehicles accessing Coleman Dock and the Port of Seattle.

## **MODIFICATION OF HOV HOURS OF OPERATION**

Charlie Howard, Director, Planning and Policy, updated the Commission regarding the modification of HOV hours of operation and Eastside Freeways Safety Improvement project. Contract plans for improvements are in final review within the Northwest Region. The next steps will be advertisement and permitting with construction work conducted between June and August 2003. The HOV lanes will be opened following construction of safety improvements and signage. Mr. Howard stated that an update would be provided at the August Commission meeting prior to the opening of the HOV lane. Chair Davis extended appreciation to Department staff for all of their work and the timeliness in which the project has moved forward.

## **GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT SECURITY PROGRAM**

John Sibold, Director, Aviation Division, and Stan Allison, Manager, Aviation Operations, updated the Commission regarding the general aviation security program. The

General Aviation Task Force has identified key issue areas at general aviation airports and strongly recommends that they create security plans for their facilities. Although the Department does not enforce security measures at community airports, the goal is to educate and assist with security plans that enable partnerships with law enforcement and fosters collaboration with airport customers. The Department will provide security grant assistance for modest security projects to general aviation airports such as signage, lighting, gates and fencing, security cameras, pay phone installation, alarm systems and access control points, visitors log or employee identification credentials. Mr. Sibold indicated that the General Aviation Security Guidelines manual prepared by WSDOT's Aviation Division will be presented to the Community Airports Association.

### **PUBLIC AND LEGISLATOR COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no public or legislators in attendance that testified.

### **OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY REPORT**

Secretary MacDonald, distributed a project summary report describing new construction starts for 2003 that are waiting for new revenue, and additional projects ready to start if new federal funding were available. He provided an update regarding the progress of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge construction and a list of other bridges that require seismic retrofitting and safety improvements. Secretary MacDonald commented briefly on the use of herbicides to manage roadside vegetation stating that the Department uses extreme care and caution in the use of vegetation management herbicides to minimize risk to the public and environment.

### **WSDOT HISTORICAL COLLECTION PROJECT**

David Keller, WSDOT Archivist, provided an informational briefing sharing the history of the Department's historical collection and current exhibit activities. The collection consists of vintage photos, film, videos, design drawings, and plans covering Department activities from 1907 to the early 1990s. A permanent exhibit of 60 key items is located at the WSDOT headquarters building located in Olympia, and is open to the public. Additionally, plans have been made to put together a traveling exhibit. The collection is meant to preserve the Department's history and provide the public the opportunity to view it.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Niva referenced Resolution No. 561, relating to a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department and Central Puget Sound Regional Transportation Authority and the Commission dated November 20, 1997, which authorized the Department's Deputy Secretary to execute the Memorandum of Understanding. Recent negotiations between Sound Transit, the Department and the Commission has resulted in the need for an additional agreement refining the terms relating to future decisions on the use of HOV lanes in the Puget Sound area. She presented Resolution No. 649 which specifies that the Commission will consult with Sound Transit (formerly Central Puget Sound Regional Transportation Authority) in any future decision affecting the use of HOV lanes.

***It was moved by Commissioner Barnes, and seconded by Commissioner Niva to approve Resolution No. 649, approving the new agreement between the Commission, Sound Transit and the Department refining the terms relating to future decisions on the use of HOV lanes in the Puget Sound area. The motion was approved with Commissioners Davis, Forner, Barnes, Niva, Maher and Marr voting yes and Commissioner Kargianis abstaining.***

Commissioner Maher reported that she attended a two-day Impact Assessment Workshop focusing on public outreach.

Commissioner Forner reported that she attended the two-day 97 Corridor Conference in Wenatchee focusing on international trade and economic development along the corridor. She thanked Judy Lorenzo, Manager, Heritage Corridor Program for working with the local community. She also attended a Wenatchee Valley MPO meeting, the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation Conference, and a Community Airport Association meeting regarding general airports.

Commissioner Marr reported that he went to Washington D.C. to advocate for "Bridging the Valley" an economic development project in the Spokane area. He requested that the Commission prepare a letter to the TPEAC Chair endorsing the process. He proposed that Commissioner Forner act as Commission liaison with TPEAC.

Commissioner Barnes reported that he attended the I-405/SR 167 ramp-opening event in Bellevue. He also attended a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Port of Grays Harbor for the dedication of the new rail loop.

Commissioner Kargianis reported that he attended the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation Conference. He stated that he is working on compiling a highway maintenance cost recovery study, pertaining to interstate traffic, that he will be providing to Commissioners.

Chair Davis reported that he has met with several legislators regarding the role of the Commission and pending legislation.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. on April 16, 2003.

**WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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AUBREY DAVIS, Chair

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GEORGE KARGIANIS, Vice-Chair

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EDWARD BARNES, Member

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CHRIS MARR, Member

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ELMIRA FORNER, Member

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CONNIE NIVA, Member

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A. MICHÈLE MAHER, Member

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DOUGLAS MACDONALD, Ex-Officio Member  
Secretary of Transportation

ATTEST:

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SHELLY MCGUIRE, Executive Assistant